

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims:

1. (previously amended) A portable tool container comprising, in combination:

a molded, generally parallelepiped tub container including a bottom side, a front side, a back side, a first lateral side, a second lateral side, and an open top;

a telescoping handle mounted on the back side intermediate the first and second lateral sides, said back side including an integrally molded vertical passage on the back side with an open top side, said handle comprising first and second telescoping members slidably mounted in the vertical position;

said first member including a cross bar for manual gripping and said second member comprising a tubular housing for the first telescoping member, the tubular housing including a first projecting stop member projecting outwardly from the housing adjacent the bottom end of the housing and a second step member projecting outwardly from the housing vertically above the first step member and spaced from the first stop member to define a distance of telescoping travel of the tubular housing in the passage, said passage including first and second projecting engagement tabs for engagement with the first and second stop members respectively, said first and second engagement tabs spaced a distance equal to the distance of telescoping travel; and

at least one wheel supporting the container adjacent one side of the handle vertical passage.

2. (previously amended) The container of claim 1 wherein the housing further comprises a biased lever and the passageway includes a pocket for receipt of the biased lever when the housing is in the extended telescoped position to prevent retraction of the housing into the passageway.

3. (previously amended) The container of claim 1 wherein the vertical passage is open at the bottom end and the top end.

4. (previously amended) The container of claim 1 wherein the vertical passage has a vertical dimension less than the vertical dimension of the back side of the container.

5. (previously amended) The container of claim 2 further including a cam member attached to the first member and engageable with the biased lever of the housing to release the biased lever from the pocket upon retraction of the first member from a telescoped extended position in the housing.
6. (previously amended) The container of claim 1 wherein the first member is slidably mounted in the second member, and wherein the first member includes a biased locking arm with an engagement hook, and wherein the second member includes first and second spaced engagement surfaces, said first and second engagement surfaces spaced vertically in the direction of travel of the first member in the second member, whereby the locking arm engages one of the engagement surfaces upon full telescoping extension, and engages the other surface upon full telescoping retraction into the second member.
7. (original) The container of claim 6 further including a housing stop member for engaging the first member upon movement of the full telescoping position to limit further telescoping movement from the housing.
8. (previously amended) The container of claim 6 further including a biasing cam surface in the housing for disengaging the biased locking arm from the housing upon movement of the first member toward the telescoping position.
- 9-13 (cancelled)
14. (currently amended) The container of claim 1 ~~or claim 9~~ wherein the container includes an open top and a cover for the top.
15. (currently amended) The container of claim 1 ~~or claim 9~~ wherein the container includes one or more molded nesting trays.
16. (currently amended) The container of claim 1 ~~or claim 9~~ including a cover for the container and a latch mechanism for retaining the cover on the container.

17. (currently amended) A portable tool container comprising:

a container tub having a generally vertical side wall;

a transport wheel attached to the tub for rolling support of the tub;

a telescoping handle attached to the side wall, said side wall including an integrally molded through passage for the handle;

said handle including first and second telescoping members, said second member comprising a housing for the first member, said second member slidably mounted in the through passage, said first member slidably mounted in the second member, said second member and said passage each including projecting stop members which limit the telescopic movement of the second member in the passage, said second member further including a first ledge and a second spaced ledge;

said first member including a first biased stop member from engaging either said first ledge or second ledge of the second member to thereby prevent telescoping movement of the first member in one direction in the housing and said first member further including a projection stop member for engaging the housing for limiting telescopic extension of the first member from the housing, said biased stop member manually engageable and releasable from one of said ledges;

~~The container of claim 9~~ wherein the second member includes a second biased stop member and said side wall includes a pocket for receipt of said second stop member to limit retraction of the second member in the passage.

18. (original) The container of claim 17 further including a cam surface on said second biased member for engagement by a cam driver on the first biased member to release the second stop member from the pocket.